

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 7, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are pending in this application. Claim 11 is amended herein. Claims 1, 10 and 11 are independent claims.

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-10 are allowed over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, claims 11-12 and 14-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the term "the authorization," which appears on line 22 of claim 11, lacks antecedent basis.

The term in question is part of the last limitation recited in claim 11, which reads, in relevant part, "wherein ... the use information management unit updates the authorization of the one user to use the charge collection system during a next period following the current period ..." (emphasis added). This refers back to lines 3-6 of the claim, which, in the version considered by the Examiner, recited "a use information management unit which manages use information of the plurality of users and generates requested contents for respective ones of the plurality of users as of a termination date of a current period during which each respective user is authorized to use the charge collection system" (emphasis added).

Thus, the applicants believe that "the authorization" that is being updated for a next period on line 22 of the claim, clearly has antecedent basis in an authorization granted to a user to use the charge collection system during a current period, which is referred to in the earlier section of the claim quoted above. Nevertheless, to remove any possible doubt regarding the definiteness of the claim language, and in the interest of moving the application toward allowance in an expeditious fashion, claim 11 is amended herein to replace the phrase "is authorized" in line 5, with --has an authorization--, and also to replace "use" in line 22, with --authorize use of--. The applicants respectfully request that these amendments to claim 11 be entered, and that the rejection of claim 11, as well as dependent claims 12 and 14-21, be withdrawn.

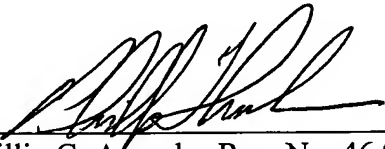
All of the Examiner's concerns having been addressed, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Notice of such, with claims 1-12 and 14-21, is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

March 11, 2005

Date



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